भूकंपनीय क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत आने वाले क्षेत्र

1863. **प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा:** क्या कृषि मंत्री बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के जबलपुर क्षेत्र में आए भूकम्प में कितने लोग मारे गए और कितने घायल हुए;

(ख) इससे कुल कितनी संम्पत्ति का नुकसान हुआ;

(ग) देश के कौन-कौन से क्षेत्र भूकम्प संभावित क्षेत्र हैं;

(घ) क्या भूकम्प आने के बारे में पूर्ण पूर्व सूचना प्राप्त करने का कोई विश्वसनीय तरीका है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उसका उपयोग कर रही है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) और (ख) मध्य प्रदेश से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार, जबलपुर तथा आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में 22 मई, 1997 को आए भूकम्प के कारण 39 व्यक्तियों की जानें गईं, 397 लोग घायल हुए तथा 1.66 लाख मकान क्षतिग्रस्त हुए।

(ग) भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो द्वारा देश को पांच भूकम्प संभावित क्षेत्रों में विभाजित किया गया है। पांचवा क्षेत्र भूकम्प के संबंध में अत्यन्त सक्रिय क्षेत्र है जबकि क्षेत्र I कम सक्रिय है। व्यापक रूप से, क्षेत्र 5 में सम्पूर्ण उत्तर-पूर्वी भारत, जम्मू और कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के हिस्से, कच्छ का रण, उत्तरी बिहार तथा अण्डमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह शामिल हैं। क्षेत्र 4 में जम्मू और कश्मीर के शेष हिस्से, बिहार एवं हिमाचल प्रदेश, दिल्ली संघ शासित प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश के उत्तरी भाग, सिक्कम, पश्चिम बंगाल, राजस्थान एवं गुजरात के हिस्से तथा पश्चिमी तट के नजदीक महाराष्ट्र के थोड़े से भाग को कवर किया गया है। क्षेत्र 3 में केरल, गोवा, पंजाब, उत्तर प्रदेश एवं पश्चिम बंगाल के शेष भाग, महाराष्ट्र एवं मध्य प्रदेश के भाग शामिल हैं। देश के शेष हिस्से क्षेत्र-I और 2 में आते हैं।

(घ) विश्व में कहीं भी वैज्ञानिक आधार पर समय, स्थान एवं परिमाण में परिशुद्धता की उचित डिग्री सहित भूकंप के बारे में पूर्व सूचना देना अभी तक संभव नहीं है।

(ङ) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Elimination of Root Wilt Disease Affecting Coconut Trees

1864. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken to eliminate root wilt disease affecting coconut trees in large areas in the country;

(b) whether any compensation is given to the coconut growers who are, to cut down disease affected trees; if so, what is the rate of compensation; and

(c) what are the financial assistances given to cultivators to plant new seedlings and to nurse it for 7 to 8 years till the time the plants begin to give yield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Coconut Development Board is implementing a scheme on integrated farming in coconut holding for improving the productivity of coconut. Under this scheme, root wilt disease affected plams at advnaced stage are removed, and better management practices are advised to contain the disease.

(b) Yes Sir, compensation of Rs. 200 per plam is given for cutting and removal of diseased palms.

(c) The following assistance is provided by Government of India through the Coconut Development Board under the integrated farming in coconut holding;

(i) Subsidy on seedling at the rate of Rs. 5 each seedling.

(ii) Subsidy at the rate of Rs. 8 each for fertiliser and plant protection chemicals.

(iii) Assistance for multi-species cropping and green manuring at the rate of Rs. 200 per ha.

Besides, the subsidy of Rs. 6000 per ha. for undertaking new planting is also given under the scheme "expansion of

area under coconut" to the farmers for a minimum of 0.1 ha. and a maximum of 4 ha. in 3 instalments for first three years of planting.

Increase in the Production of Raw Cashew Nut

1865. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the necessity to increase raw cashew nut production in the country;

(b) whether Government have any programme to extend cashew cultivation in the coutnry; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of India under a centrally sponsored scheme on 'Integrated Development Programme of Cashew' is providing assistance for area expansion, replanting , improving productivity of existing plantation, multiplication and supply of quality planting matrial, adoption of improved production and pest management practices and training of farmers to increase the production of cashew in the country. The current year's outlay of the scheme is Rs. 16.00 crores.

Rural Credit for Indian Agriculture

1866. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of rural credit required by the Indian agriculture and how this need is going to be fulfilled during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) what strategies are being formulated and what is the response to these strategies by the banking sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Rural credit required by the Indian agriculture as assessed by the Working Group on Agriculture Credit and coop. is of the order of Rs. 229750 crore for the IX Plan period. For meeting the agricultural credit requirements during the Ninth plan period, various steps have been taken to ensure that the Targets set forth for the Ninth Plan are fully met.

The Government policy is to restructure the cooperative credit system so as to double the flow of credit to agriculture and agro-industries, particularly to small and marginal farmers within next five years. To achive this objective, special Action Plans for strenthening the credit institution have been formulated. In order to augment the flow of credit to agriculture, it is proposed to increase the share capital of NABARD to Rs. 1000 crore from Rs. 500 crore and to set up State Agricultural Finance Development Corporations to provide credit support needed for hi-tech agricultural activities. As a part of restructuring package, equity support to the extent of Rs. 274 crore has been provided to 102 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). NABARD has earmarked a sum of Rs. 400 crore for provision of refinance through a separate line of Short Term (SAO) credit to State Coorperative Banks (SCBs) and RRBs for meeting credit needs of tribals. Further RBI has advised to all commercial banks to increase the credit flow by 25% p.a. Cooperatives/RRBs have been advised to attain the same growth rate in the flow of ground level credit. RBI has relaxed its SLR/CRR norms to provide substantial resources to commercial banks for lending. Additional steps taken to improve credit flow to agriculture include simplification of application forms; prescription of scales of finance for Crop loans as worked out by the technical committees constituted in each district for various crops and their uniform adoption